

on their expedition, accordingly they met and went down to Plain Dealing to the amount of 17 men with muskets, (though no ammunition) where they found a number of negroes which they expected belonging to the plantation, and the Trustee from home, however his wife was, to whom they apply'd for salt, tho she as well as the negroes had their lesson, say'd there was none there, Colston told her he was credibly informed there was a considerable quantity there, which had laid some time untouched, therefore insisted to have the door of the house in which the salt lay opened, or they would break it open, at the same time telling her their necessity and likewise of the money for the quantity they wanted, as they did not mean to rob them of it, but to pay a full price, on which the woman say'd if they would not be too lavish, they might get what they wanted, and opened the door, called a negroe, and they ordered him to measure out carefully  $17\frac{1}{2}$  Bushels for which they paid her 35 Dollars. Then went home and wrote Mr Chamberlaine their necessity and what they had done, that if the sum they paid for the salt was not sufficient, they would still pay him the price he asked, tho' on hearing it he pursued them to Caroline County as quick as possible and took a poor lad that was a hireling to a man that sent it with them, who I imagine is still confined: the above is a true state of case, in which I make no doubt your Hon<sup>rs</sup> will judge of us favourable as the case will admit of. I need not remind you of these distressing times, for that reason as no violence has been and hope you'll not think them men of seditious principles, who might be desirous of stirring up partie faction. They are by no means such. I know several of the leading men to be men of reputation, who bears and is deserving of a good a moral character as most men in the country; I could wish our leading Gent. on this side of the Bay was as little inclined to partie designs and self-interest as Colston, who was their leader of that Salt company. They have been sincere in their Country's cause and have acted like men of Spirit and principle ever since these distressing times commenced, which is more than can be said with truth of any engrosser of Salt here.

They have not passed through the country publishing the numberless and great difficulties, that we are at in carrying on the War against G. Britain, neither have they through any dastardly conduct or conversation endeavoured to disunite and weaken our cause; which too many of our first Gentlemen have done and in public acts, and speaks with such timid duplicity, which leaves the ignorant in doubt. Was they real friends to their country as they stile themselves, would they ingross that necessary article salt, and keep it from the neces-